

HOCKEY LIGHT

RELATED CASES

- 5 The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional
Application No. 60/457,601 filed on March 26,2003, and is incorporated herein
by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

- 10 The present invention relates to a novelty item for use during a sporting
event. More particularly, the present invention relates to a hockey light for
signaling an event, such as a goal, during a televised hockey game.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- Several lighting and sound systems are available to indicate a
successful score, end of a quarter or period, or other activities, occurrences or
events during a sporting event for use with an amateur or professional goal
20 system. Other novelty items are also available to signal a score, produce
sound effects or generate a message. Examples of these novelty items
include the HOCKEY MODEL GL-H5 Indoor hockey goal light by NEVCO®,
U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,064,195 to McMahan et al., 5,326,094 to Quinn, 5,615,880 to
Booth et al., and 5,816,947 to Kavitch. Another novelty item related to hockey
25 is HE SCORES by POOF®, a hand held hockey related goal light for fans to
show their team spirit. Additionally, systems have been developed to aid the
television viewer in spotting the movement of a hockey puck on the ice and a
visual score indicator. These systems are described in U. S. Pat. Nos.
5,947,846 to Craig and 6,154,250 to Honey et al.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a novelty hockey light for use in conjunction
5 with a televised sporting event that mimics the lighting system generally used
by hockey arenas, both professional and amateur, to indicate a significant
event during the game.

Specifically, the hockey light includes a housing generally formed of
two components: an upper goal light and a base support system. The base is
10 preferably round and supports the generally round goal light above it. The
base includes a housing for supporting at least one speaker, volume
adjustment, audio message or music generator, light activation system and
energy means such as a battery for activating the goal light and other
amenities. Additionally, the base may include an infrared receptor for remote
15 activation of the device.

The goal light is preferably a rounded cone shaped lens formed of a
translucent material having a reddish hue. Other colors, such as a school
color scheme, may also be provided. The interior light is preferably a rotating
beacon.

20 The hockey light may be activated manually or remotely. The assembly
may provide a two-way switch for switching the goal light and sound on or off.
The two-way switch provides for switching between activation of the goal light
only or simultaneous activation of the goal light and sound system.
Additionally, the assembly may be programmed to play any audio material
25 such as a school fight song, applause, air horn noise or chirping, for example,
that may be downloaded from a personal computer, or may incorporate a
DVD, compact disc, tape recording or any other sound system within the base
or remotely attached to the hockey light and adjusted with a high/low volume
control.

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The hockey light may be battery powered or may include an AC/DC adapter for plugging into a wall unit. Alternatively, other means for activating the assembly may be employed including activation via an inaudible television audio signal, a pager or page network transmission, for example. Additionally, a clip, or other means may be included on the base to seat or hold the remote control unit when not in use. The remote control may also be equipped with a lanyard to enable a user to place the control and his/her neck for example to prevent misplacing the control.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention including a cut-away of the lens to show an interior bulb and support base having manual components including an on-off switch, a volume control, a speaker, light activation switch and an AC/DC adapter with plug.

FIG. 2 illustrates a rear view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention including a remote control with storage clip, a remote speaker and an AC/DC adapter with plug.

FIG. 3 illustrates a bottom view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention including a receptacle for batteries.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference to Figures 1, 2 and 3, a hockey light 10 of the present invention is there shown and includes a housing 12 generally formed of two components: an upper goal light 14 and a base support system 16. The base 16 is preferably round and supports the generally round goal light 14 above it. The base 16 includes a housing 18 for supporting at least one speaker 20, volume adjustment 22, audio message or music generator 24, light activation

system 26 and energy means 28 such as a battery 30 (see Figure 3) for activating the goal light 14 and other amenities. Additionally, the base 16 may include an infrared receptor for remote activation of the device by a remote control unit 32.

5 The goal light 14 is preferably a rounded cone shaped lens formed of a translucent material having a reddish hue. Other colors, such as a school color scheme, may also be provided and incorporated in both the goal light 14 and base 16. Additionally, logos or other advertisements may be provided on the light and base or the outer profile of the hockey light 10 may be formed to
10 reflect the shape of certain goods or logos. The interior light 34 is preferably a rotating beacon.

 The hockey light 10 may be activated manually or remotely. The assembly 10 may provide a two-way switch 22, 24, 26 for switching the goal light and sound on or off. The two-way switch provides for switching between
15 activation of the goal light only or simultaneous activation of the goal light and sound system. Additionally, the assembly may be programmed to play any audio material such as a school fight song, applause, air horn noise or chirping, for example, that may be downloaded from a personal computer, or may incorporate a DVD, compact disc, tape recording or any other sound
20 system within the base or remotely attached to the hockey light and adjusted with a high/low volume control.

 The hockey light 10 may be battery powered 30 or may include an AC/DC adapter 28 for plugging into a wall unit. Alternatively, other means for activating the assembly may be employed including activation via an inaudible
25 television audio signal, a pager or page network transmission, for example. Additionally, a clip 36, or other means may be included on the base 18 to seat or hold the remote control unit 32 when not in use. The remote control 32 may also be equipped with a lanyard to enable a user to place the control 32 around his/her neck for example to prevent misplacing the control.

The hockey light 10 is preferably used in conjunction with a televised sporting event that mimics the lighting system generally used by hockey arenas, both professional and amateur, to indicate a significant event during the game. The present invention may be used manually or remotely to trigger
5 a light and/or sound to commemorate an event such as the end of a period or a goal scored during a hockey game. The hockey light 10 assembly may incorporate school or team colors and logos. Additionally, the hockey light 10 may be equipped to receive and play any sounds, recordings, songs or messages from a person, computer, or any sound device 38.

10 It should be understood that various alternatives to the embodiments of the invention described herein may be employed in practicing the invention. Thus, it is intended that the following claims define the scope of the invention and that the methods and apparatus within the scope of these claims and their equivalents be covered thereby. The disclosures of all articles and
15 references, including patent applications and publications, are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.